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Baltimore Spying

Associated Press

Baltimore is one of several cities targeted for an investigation into the use of federal funds for illegal police spying on civilian activities.

The probe, to be conducted by the General Accounting Office, was approved Tuesday by the U.S. Senate permanent subcommittee on investigations.

The GAO will have subpoena power for an investigation which will focus immediately on Baltimore, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and Washington.

A spokesman for Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.), who asked for the investigation, said as many as 10 cities may be involved before it comes to an end.

The Maryland portion of the investigation involves reports that Baltimore policemen had spied on black politicians, civil rights leaders, clergymen and reporters during the late 1960s and early 1970s.